

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a wheel having a wheel body with a radial surface wherein the width of the contact between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the creeper is placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum width of said wheel body.
2. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein each said wheel of said plurality of caster assemblies further comprises a hub having including an axial bore, an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced from said inner rim by radial supports.
3. A creeper according to claim 2 wherein said axial bore is defined by a bearing.
4. A creeper according to claim 3 wherein said bearing is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin, polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.
5. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein said wheel body is formed from material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monoprene.
6. A creeper according to claim 5 wherein said wheel body has a hardness of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D scale.
7. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a

09780603 021201

4 wheel comprising a wheel body extending, in hemispherical or semi-
5 elliptical cross section, from a hub.

1 8. A creeper according to claim 7, wherein said hub includes an axial bore,
2 an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced from
3 said inner rim by radial supports.

1 9. A creeper according to claim 8 wherein said axial bore is defined by a
2 bearing.

1 10. A creeper according to claim 9 wherein said bearing is made of a material
2 selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin,
3 polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.

1 11. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said wheel body is formed from
2 material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic
3 rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monoprene.

1 12. A creeper according to claim 11 wherein said wheel body has a hardness
2 of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D
3 scale.

1 13. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein the width of the surface contact
2 between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the creeper is
3 placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum width of said
4 wheel body.

1 14. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said side rails have a top and
2 bottom surface, said top surface tapering toward said bottom surface to
3 define a decreased cross section of said side rails, the decreased cross
4 section of said side rails being positioned adjacent said pad.

0970003 0270004

1 15. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein each of said plurality of caster
2 assemblies includes a top bearing bracket having a top race, said top
3 bearing bracket being attached to one of said side rails such that said top
4 race of said top bearing bracket lies wholly within the vertical profile of
5 said side rail.

1 16. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of caster assemblies
2 are attached to said side rails without creating a protrusion on said top
3 surface of said side rails.

1 17. A creeper according to claim 16 wherein said caster assemblies each
2 include a top bearing bracket having a top race, and a bottom bearing
3 bracket having a bottom race; a wheel assembly connected to said caster
4 assembly between said top and bottom bearing brackets; top rolling
5 elements retained within said top race between said top bearing bracket
6 and a portion of said wheel assembly; and bottom rolling elements
7 retained within said bottom race between said bottom bearing bracket and
8 a portion of said wheel assembly.

1 18. A creeper according to claim 17 wherein each of said caster assemblies
2 further include a kingpin, said bottom bearing bracket and said wheel
3 assembly being held in operative position by said kingpin.

1 19. A creeper according to claim 18 wherein said top bearing bracket is
2 secured to said bottom surface of said side rails by rivet nuts.

09780603.02304
T02AT20.E0902760